Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13310 131453Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 FBOE-00 A-01 CPR-01 L-03
EURE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 /038 W
----------076287 131455Z /43
O 131420Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2070

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13310

FOR EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, US, AFSP, ABLD, OGEN
SUBJECT: EMBASSY NEEDS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 12831, (B) STATE 209041

1. THE EMBASSY IS CONTINUING TO ENCOUNTER SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN CLEARING BADLY NEEDED SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS THROUGH SOVIET CUSTOMS. THE LATEST PROBLEM CONCERNS A LOAD OF WOODEN ROOF RAFTERS FROM FINLAND WHICH HAS BEEN LANGUISING IN CUSTOMS FOR NEARLY TWO DAYS.

2. ON SEPT 12 A TRUCK LOADED WITH LUMBER AND OTHER SUPPLIES ORDERED BY THE EMBASSY IN HELSINKI ARRIVED IN MOSCOW AT CENTRAL CUSTOMS AT 0900. THE TRUCK DRIVER WAS THEN DIRECTED TO THE CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE AT TUSHINO IN MOSCOW'S SUBURBS. THE TRUCK ARRIVED AT TUSHINO AT 1030 AND HAS BEEN WAITING THERE EVER SINCE FOR CUSTOMS INSPECTION AND CLEARANCE.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED OFFICIALS AT CUSTOMS, MFA PROTOCOL, THE USA DIVISION OF MFA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE -- ALL TO NO AVAIL.

4. THE DELAYS ARE NOW BECOMING SERIOUS, SINCE
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THE WEATHER IS CHANGING IN MOSCOW AND WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME RAINFALL IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. MOREOVER, THE SEABEES HAVE COMPLETED ABOUT AS MUCH OF THE ROOF WORK AS THEY CAN WITHOUT THE LUMBER IN CUSTOMS. SINCE WE ARE RACING AGAINST WINTER, AND THE WEATHER IS RAPIDLY GETTING COLDER HERE, DELAY OF A SINGLE DAY IS A SIGNIFICANT SETBACK. THE CHANCERY CEILINGS AND WALLS

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HAVE ALSO ABSORBED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF RAIN IN THE
LAST FEW DAYS , AND WE COULD SOON REACH THE POINT WHERE
WATER WILL FORCE US TO DISCONTINUE THE USE OF CERTAIN OFFICES.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT STRESS TO THE
SOVIET EMBASSY THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE
CONSTANT DELAYS AND OBSTRUCTIONS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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